MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: That is not the case at all. What happens is that, Government, on their own account, weigh the food stuffs from within the godowns and give them out to the merchants.

MR. M. K. CHANDRASEKHARA BHATTATHIRI (*The Travancore Jenmies, South*): Do the Government know that in some places merchants are charged for weighing and measuring?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No, Sir.

PRESIDENT: Has any instance been brought to the notice of Government?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No, Sir.

MR. M. K. CHANDRASEKHARA BHATTATHIRI: That is being done at present in Parur.

MR. A. K. BHASKAR: May I know why retail merchants in Taluk areas are charged 6 annas more per sack than the retail merchants in municipal areas?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Because it involves additional transport charges.

MR. A. K. BHASKAR: Is the member aware that there is this difference of 6 annas per sack for food stuffs issued from the same stockists?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: I shall make enquiries.

Excise Department.

74. * MR. N. D. PARAMESWARAN NAMBOODIRI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) who does the prosecution work in the Excise Department;

(*b*) the number of prosecutions in 1118 and 1119; and

(*c*) how many of them were contentious?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN (*Excise Commissioner*): (*a*) Excise Inspectors in charge of the Ranges are attending to the prosecution work and are generally in charge of the cases filed in their respective ranges.

(*b*) 1545 in 1118 and 2044 in 1119.

(*c*) 83 in 1118 and 95 in 1119.

MR. V. SRIDHARAN PILLAI: Sir, the member who has put the question is not present. Can I ask supplementry questions?

PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. V. SRIDHARAN PILLAI: May I know from the honourable member whether these Inspectors who are investigating the charges and charge sheeting the cases are allowed to conduct prosecution in the courts?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: Sir, They are conducting these prosecutions.

MR. V. SRIDHARAN PILLAI: May I know whether Government have thought it necessary or desirable to investigate the reasons for such a low percentage of convicted cases?

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MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: I do not understand the question. Is it the honourable members suggestion that there should be a higher percentage of contested cases?

Preventive Officers in the Excise Inspector's Office, Alleppey.

75 *MR. P. S. MOHAMED: Will the Government be pleased to state the number and names of Preventive Officers in the Excise Inspector's Office, Alleppey with the period of their service in Alleppey?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: A *statement is appended.

Loss of sugar consignments in transit.

76 *MR. P. S. MOHAMED: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they received any representation from the Travancore merchants on the loss of sugar consignments in railway transit during the period of the last political disturbances in British India;

(*b*) whether they have taken any action on the representation;

(*c*) if so, the nature of the action taken by them; and

(*d*) the result of the action taken by them?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The railway authorities and the Government of Behar were moved on behalf of the parties for grant of compensation for the loss sustained.

(*d*) It has been found that a claim for compensation is not maintainable in these cases.

Export of Punnac.

77. *MR. P. S. MOHAMED: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the persons who exported punnac through Aramboly chowkey in 1119 and 1120 till 1-5-1120; and

(*b*) the ways and methods adopted by the Excise Department for giving permits for the export of punnac?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: A †statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) Permits are issued after verification of stock by the local officers (Excise Inspectors) subject also to the Export Trade Control Orders of the Government of India.

MR. P. S. MOHOMED: ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ആ ചുമതല വഹിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതെ വരുന്ന സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന നഷ്ടത്തിന് പിന്നീട് ആരാണ് ഉത്തരം പറയേണ്ടത്?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: അങ്ങനെ ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന നഷ്ടത്തെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള കാര്യം ഇന്നും അനേഷണത്തിൽ ഇരിക്കുകയാണ്.

*Vide Appendix II page 3..
†Vide Appendix III page 31.

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